



ALEXANDRIA.

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 24.

This is a free and equal country, and any one man in it has the same rights and privileges that any other man has. A man with a thousand greenbacks, or gold or silver dollars, has the same right to trade up on them as one with a thousand bushels of wheat, a thousand yards of cotton, or a thousand pounds of butter, and the attempt to restrict his profit on those dollars by limiting his rates of interest is an unjust act. It is futile. Indeed experience has demonstrated the fact that the practical effect of usury laws, instead of benefiting borrowers, is to increase their troubles. It is, and of necessity must be, so with all other attempts to restrain the liberty of free men to make individual contracts, or to make them conform their personal habits to those of other people. Hence none of the many laws which demagogues persuade the temperance and laboring people are enacted for their special benefit, results in any practical good.

It would be well enough for the people of this city who have other things than politics to think about, if they would not forget that a municipal election will be held here day after to-morrow, and if they would also remember that the character of a city is judged away from it by that of its officers, and that nothing is more calculated to retard the approach of capital and reputable people to a city, and the commencement of business enterprises there, than the impression that its municipal government is not in the hands of wise, conservative and efficient men. If every right thinking man in Alexandria would only take the little trouble required to cast a ballot at the municipal elections, the condition of the city would be improved, and every body in it benefited.

NOW THAT the President has announced his intention of throwing open to settlers one hundred million acres of land heretofore held by the land grant railroads, it is hoped Mr. George will give his tongue and the private land owners in this country a rest, as not only each one of the sixty thousand men who voted with him last fall that land should be confiscated without compensation to its owners, but every body else who wants a farm to live upon, can now get one hundred and sixty acres of really good land at a merely nominal price, and should therefore be content to let people who have worked hard and lived economically in order to buy land further east, hold theirs in peace and security.

GEN. ROSECRANS, President Cleveland's registrar of the Treasury, who would not allow Mr. Wallace, a Virginia ex-Confederate, to hold an office in his bureau, for the assigned reason that he did not like to be surrounded by "rebels," has sent a contribution to a fund to be raised by Dr. McGlynn, who believes in "king killing" and in the confiscation of all land without compensation to the owners. The most remarkable thing about this latest remarkable act of "Rosey's" is that while he professes to be a Catholic, Dr. McGlynn ridicules the Pope and sets his commands at open defiance.

ONE OF the many ridiculous things connected with the State debt is the praise that is bestowed in some sections of the State upon certain members of the legislature for voting against some of the repudiating measures introduced in that body at its late session, though the very same members voted for adhering to all the repudiating provisions of the repudiating Riddleberger bill, and that, too, though in doing so they also voted to set defiance the mandates of the U. S. Supreme Court.

THE CALLED session of the Legislature adjourned to day. Better for the State and better for the democratic party had it never met.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Correspondence of the ALEX. GAZETTE.]
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 24, 1887.
A private letter received here today from San Francisco, says Mrs. Senator Mahone and her daughter have returned to that city from a visit to Yellowstone Park, and will soon start on their way home. When they started West it was published in the newspapers that they went with Senator Stanford as his guests and in his private car, but that statement was incorrect. Capt. Denmore, a pronounced republican, for twelve years the chief usher at the White House, has resigned that position for a more lucrative private one in the North. Senator Riddleberger is still here. It is said he has made a peremptory demand upon Secretary McCook, of the U. S. Senate, for a position for his friend, Mr. Campbell, who was removed at the instance of General Mahone, and that his ability to tie the Senate if he shall choose to do so, may induce a compliance with that demand. The republican fear, however, is that should he get a taste of patronage there will be no such thing as satisfying him, that he will demand all in sight, that he will be an insatiable monster, and the question with them is whether it will not be as well to dare his worst before giving him any thing as to risk his anger after he shall have obtained a share of the Senate's offices. No definite action can be taken in the Senate without a majority, and a part of such action of the Senate of the next Congress will be the election of several committee chairmen.

There are a good many strangers in the city, but nothing like the number that was expected. Of all the hotels here the registers of only two, the Metropolitan and National, show any increase of arrivals. The fronts of many of the houses here are decorated to-day with flags and banners, and Pennsylvania avenue presents a bright and

animated appearance. The Alexandria Light Infantry and the St. John's Cadets are comfortably quartered and seem to be having a fine time. The former company will be inspected at 8:40 and will drill at 10:30 a. m. Friday. The latter at 2:40 p. m. Saturday.

The President to-day appointed Charles M. Stanford to be U. S. Marshal for the eastern district of New York. Mr. Stanford is from King's county, and is said to be an offensive partisan.

The transfer of the Danville internal revenue district to the Alexandria district of Virginia, will not be made probably until after the 15th proximo. From that date Mr. Helm, the collector of the Danville district, will be out of office, and the places of all his subordinates be at the disposal of the collector of the Alexandria district.

Mr. John Ridgley Carter, of Baltimore, and Miss Alice Morgan, daughter of the late D. P. Morgan, of New York, were married at St. John's church here to-day. Among those present were Justice Field, of the U. S. Supreme Court, Mr. W. W. Corcoran, Mr. Riggs, and others of the old time and select District society.

The resolution adopted by the Virginia State Senate, requesting the President to appoint Mr. J. R. Tucker associate justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, and a long petition to the same effect signed by members of the House of Delegates and by other well known Virginians have been laid before the President, but from the latter's ideas on the subject of age and other intimations, the hopes of Mr. Tucker's friends are not at all sanguine.

According to present arrangements the President will leave Washington Thursday evening in a special car of the Pennsylvania road and proceed direct to Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, making only the necessary stops on the route. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Cleveland and Col. and Mrs. Lamont, and expects to return to Washington inside of two weeks.

Surgeon General Hamilton of the Marine Hospital Service said to day that he has received official notice of the existence of yellow fever at Key West, but that the situation is not sufficiently grave to call for action on the part of the government. The health authorities at Key West he said are first class men and have taken every precaution to prevent a spread of the disease. He thought the disease could be confined within its present limit and that there was as yet no cause for alarm.

A gentleman who accompanied Mr. Randall on his recent trip to the yard of the Arrow Steamship company in Alexandria, says the Pennsylvania congressman spoke in the highest terms of what he saw there, and said Alexandria had every possible facility for the construction of ships.

Among the strangers in the city to-day are several members of the Virginia legislature, on their way home, their body having adjourned.

This morning Michael Frain, of this city, a messenger of the Treasury Department, fell over the balustrade on the fourth floor of that building into one of the sand pits, a distance of over sixty feet, and was killed instantly. He was attacked with dizziness, and in falling clutched at the balusters and overbalancing himself toppled over. Deceased was about 60 years of age, and leaves a wife and three children. He was a soldier in the late war, and had been a messenger in the Light-house board for many years.

Ex-representative Goode, of Virginia, is to deliver two college addresses this summer—one in Virginia and one in North Carolina. Ex-representative Tucker is to deliver one at Yale.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

[Special Cor. of the Alexandria GAZETTE.]
RICHMOND, May 23.—The General Assembly will adjourn sine die to-morrow. The clerks are busy to-night preparing bills to be presented to the Governor to-morrow for his signature. The Governor is expected busy to-day and will be so until to-morrow at noon. The speech delivered on the floor of the Senate to-day would make a far better campaign document than will the report of the debt commission. Mr. Massey's statements were given in a very readable shape, and his speech was a first rate condensation of the negotiations between the debt commission and Sir Edward Thornton and Mr. Braithwaite. The presence of the Lieutenant Governor on the floor of the Senate as a speaker was by some considered a little out of place, but Senators who heard him will profit from his remarks, and his speech was indeed a good one. When Mr. Massey goes before the people next fall to advocate the principles of the democratic party he will have some funny things to tell about Sir Edward Thornton, whose letters he read, Mr. Massey distinctly remembers some of Sir Edward's sayings and he can use these with fine effect upon the stump. It is reported at the Capitol that Mr. Massey wants to be the next Governor and I am told that if there is the slightest chance for him he will enter the roll for the United States Senatorship. Some say if Mr. Barbour is a candidate Mr. Massey will not allow his name to be used, but will support Mr. Barbour and afterwards work for the Governorship. In this connection I might add Hon. Henry R. Pollard, of King and Queen, is spoken of as a probable candidate for Attorney General two years hence.

There was no opposition in the Senate to the resolution of sympathy for Ireland. A copy of the resolution will be sent to Mr. Gladstone to-morrow and Mr. Parnell will receive a copy the next day. It will be written in fine style, and the clerk of the Senate hopes to secure the signature of the two distinguished statesmen.

Senator Heaton, of Loudoun, presented to-day a petition from Bernard P. Green, in reference to payment for the services of Thomas Green, deceased, who was at one time a distinguished Virginia lawyer. John A. Parker, who I believe lives in Washington, has filed a report in which he asks for compensation for services rendered the State in prosecuting claims against the national government. I have not been able to learn what amount Mr. Parker wished the State to pay him, but I know that the petition which Mr. Green has presented will have the effect of killing every chance Mr. Parker ever had of receiving a payment from the State for whatever services he may have rendered in the years gone by to the old Commonwealth. The petition of Mr. Green and the report of Mr. Parker have gone to a committee, and will slumber together long after a final adjournment.

B. P. O.

THE COLOR LINE.—The Potomac Corps, No. 2, of the Women's Relief Corps, held an excited meeting at Grand Army Hall, Washington, last night. The hundred and fifty ladies present were invited by the Department of the Potomac of the Grand Army of the Republic to take part in the Decoration Day services. The whole situation was explained by one of the ladies, who had taken a prominent part in the meeting. "You see, we have only one relief corps, while the army and navy have many, and they insisted on being represented in the parade if we were. That made the trouble. The Grand Army comrades were all worked up over it and devised numerous impracticable ways out of the disagreeable dilemma. But there was no help for it. If we were furnished carriages, the colored women wanted them too, and what is more, they wanted just as many as we would have had. Well, finally, as the only way out of the difficulty, the Grand Army will tender no carriages at all to the ladies of the Relief Association, but will invite their young lady friends instead."

THE TITLE OF Dr. Nelson's article noticed in yesterday's GAZETTE is "shall the Protestant Episcopal Church change its name?"

Consul Withers and the "Critic."

HONG KONG, April 15, 1887.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

Dear Sir—When in Washington about the first of November, 1886, I called at the office of the *Critic* to learn upon whose authority the slanderous charges against me were given to the public in the *Critic* of the 10th September. The editor informed me that they were furnished by an officer of the U. S. Navy, whose name he would procure and send me. Subsequently the following correspondence took place.

Yours truly, R. E. WITHERS.

[Copy.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 16, 1886.

Hon. Robert E. Withers, U. S. Consul, Hong Kong, China.

Dear Colonel—The name of the officer is Clements, as I am informed, and he was recently on the Alert. Pardon me for having overlooked the matter. Very truly,

R. H. SYLVESTER, Ed. *Critic*.

[Copy.]

No. 300. UNITED STATES CONSULATE, HONG KONG, Jan. 11, 1887.

Mr. Abner B. Clements, U. S. Navy.

Sir—On the 10th of September last an article appeared in the Washington *Critic*, containing a very unjust and slanderous article on my personal and official conduct and character. The editor of that paper, when called on for authority on which the publication was based, furnished your name. As you have doubtless seen the publication alluded to, I have the honor to request, at your earliest convenience, either an avowal of your own responsibility for the charges against me, or a retraction.

I deem it proper to state that the delay in forwarding this communication was caused by the unavoidable consumption of time in communicating with the editor of the *Critic* and procuring from him the name of the author of the charges. This was received by the last steamer from America. I am, sir, &c.

R. E. WITHERS, U. S. Consul.

[Copy.]

MACON, Mo., February 18th, 1887.

Hon. R. E. Withers, U. S. Consul, Hong Kong, China.

Sir: Your communication of the 11th January received. To say I was surprised very faintly conveys my feelings on reading it. I at once wrote to Washington to try to find out what it is all about. In the meantime, I can assure you that I have no knowledge of the article you refer to, other than that conveyed in your letter. I have not seen a *Critic* since I left Washington July 6, 1882, to the best of my knowledge. I am not acquainted with any one connected with that paper, and I have not since or at any other time ever written an article, slanderous or otherwise regarding yourself or any one else for that, or any other paper. Nor have I furnished any person connected with any paper any information on which to base an article for publication. I think in the foregoing I have given good reason why I cannot avow responsibility or retract, as you ask.

Though I have never had the pleasure of your acquaintance I became pretty well acquainted with your son through my shipmate and friend, Lee Holcombe, your relative. Your son will remember me as one of the officers of the "Alert."

A letter of the 10th of September must have been written while I was in China or on my return voyage, as we did not reach San Francisco until the 11th of September. I am very sorry you should be annoyed by any such publication, and regret that my name should be connected with it.

While in China my only correspondents were my wife and my mother, and both assure me that to the best of their knowledge I never mentioned your name in my letters.

I have the honor to be very respectfully, &c.,

A. B. CLEMENTS, Ensign U. S. Navy.

[Copy.]

MACON, Mo., March 3d, 1887.

Hon. R. E. Withers, U. S. Consul, Hong Kong.

Sir: I wrote the enclosed immediately upon receipt of your letter, but concluded to await the result of my father's investigation in Washington before mailing it. I am now able to give you the whole matter so far as I know anything about it. I enclose letters from my father, from the editor of the *Critic* and from the reporter as well as my own letter of the 18th of February. It appears that Mr. Larner, a relative of mine, is a reporter for the *Critic*. As I had not heard from him since 1882 I was not aware of that fact when I wrote on the 18th February.

Respectfully,

A. B. CLEMENTS,

Ensign U. S. Navy.

[Enclosures in above.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1887.

Sir: In reply to your personal inquiry would say that I regret very much that some of the statements should have been construed in a recent article written by me for the *Critic* as a reflection upon Consul Withers at Hong Kong. As a matter of fact my informant who showed me a letter from the Asiatic Station, stated that certain abuses existed at Yokohama which should be remedied, and unintentionally I wrote it Hong Kong. Ensign Clements did not give me my information, but the person from whom I received it I esteemed reliable and his news authentic.

Very respectfully,

W. S. LARNER, "THE CRITIC"

To J. T. Clements, esq., Washington, D. C.

[Copy.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 28, 1887.

My Dear Son: On receipt of your letter I at once entered upon an investigation of the *Critic*'s article. It was a hard piece of business to corral an editor and a reporter for a newspaper, and I was compelled to get them singly. I send you a letter addressed to me by Winfield Larner, the reporter, and one from Mr. Sylvester, the editor, addressed to Mr. Withers. After sifting the matter it is clear there has been a great tempest in a teapot with the usual result of nobody hurt. If Winfield really obtained his data from any letter of yours, it was from an old letter dated at Yokohama, Japan, in May 1886, in which you said about the middle of your letter that you had been stopped to see about a matter in relation to a sailor who was ill treated, and in which you condemned the laws more than the Consuls; stating the circumstances, and wound up by saying that you had heard that as bad a state of affairs existed at Hong Kong, and Mosby had been severely reprimanded by a judge or some court official. Winfield must have confused the whole matter, and located it at Hong Kong.

Mr. Withers was, as I learn, here about the time the article appeared, September 10, 1886, and was up before the Senate, perhaps for confirmation as Consul at Hong Kong, and thus got matters mixed. Mr. Sylvester's letter is full and to the point. He wants you to make a copy of letter and forward the original to Mr. Withers.

Your father, JOHN T. CLEMENTS.

[Copy.]

THE WASHINGTON CRITIC.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 28, 1887.

Hon. Robert E. Withers, United States Consul at Hong Kong, China.

Dear Sir—I have been called on to day by Mr. Job A. T. Clements, of this city, in reference to the *Critic* article of which you spoke to me just prior to your departure for China and desired to know the authorship. I wrote you that according to the statement of our reporter (Mr. Larner) who prepared the article for the press, and which was published without careful editorial examination, he obtained his information from a private letter written home by Ensign Abner B. Clements, of the "Alert." The latter is now at Macon, Mo., and writes to his father that he never knew of anything derogatory of your administration of the Hong Kong Consulate, and did not know at the date of the publication referred to that you had been appointed to that post.

Mr. John T. Clements, who, I should have stated above, is Ensign Clements' father, has also shown me the letter on which our reporter based his article, and it makes no reference to you personally or officially. It does relate, on the authority of a seaman who told the story, some occurrences similar to what are described in the *Critic*, but it appears that they took place at Yokohama, and not at Hong Kong, and my theory of the matter is that Mr. Larner, the reporter, being a friend and relative of the Clements family, and having had access to the Ensign's letter must have confounded the names of Yokohama and Hong Kong in fixing up his article for the press, and knowing you to be consul at the latter place, thus inadvertently and unfortunately associated yourself with another consulate and a transaction of which you could have known nothing. I have given the subject careful attention, and while I am satisfied that the skirts of Ensign Clements are clear, I cannot divine the existence of any possible motive on Mr. Larner's part to have made an intentional misrepresentation of the facts stated. This being the case the onus of the offense rests on myself, and I know to a dead certainty that no motive could have existed in my own mind to do you an injustice, or seem to place you in a false light for the sake of a cheap sensation. As in many other respects I rely mainly on the good faith of our writers to furnish nothing for publication but what is known to be true or capable of substantiation; but the best of editors sometimes get caught. In this case I regret it the more because my sympathies are all with the democratic members of the diplomatic and consular service, and on several occasions I have taken pains to discredit statements made by interested parties reflecting on our ministers and consuls. I can only say further that such correction as you may desire of the misrepresentation of yourself, for which it would seem I have to bear the responsibility, will be cheerfully made; and upon this point I await your pleasure. Very respectfully,

RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, Editor *Critic*.

[Copy.]

U. S. CONSULATE,

HONG KONG, April 15, 1887.

Mr. A. B. Clements, Ensign U. S. Navy, Macon, Mo.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th February and 3d March, with the accompanying correspondence, and accept your disclaimer as satisfactory. I cannot forbear submitting a single remark on the passage in your father's letter characterizing the whole affair as a "tempest in a teapot," which hurt nobody. If to have one's personal and official character denounced through the public press from one end of the country to the other, to be specifically charged with drunkenness, immorality, corruption, dishonesty and tyranny, without a shadow of foundation for the allegations—if these "hurt nobody" I am at a loss to conceive what would constitute damage to character.

I must say that I regard them as furnishing sufficient reason for troubling you and thus procuring the means of vindicating a reputation which for more than fifty years I have regarded as my most valued possession.

I am, sir, very respectfully your old servt.,

R. E. WITHERS, U. S. Consul.

[Copy.]

U. S. CONSULATE,

HONG KONG, April 15, 1887.

Mr. R. H. Sylvester, Editor *Critic*, Washington, D. C. Sir: I have just received your letter of the 18th February, through Ensign Clements, U. S. N., together with Mr. Larner's explanation of the very extraordinary circumstances attending the publication of the injurious charges against my personal and official character which appeared in the *Critic* of the 10th September last. Your frank expressions of regret and desire to make such correction of the misrepresentation as I may desire have decided me to ask the publication in your paper of the whole correspondence growing out of the matter, copies of which accompany this letter. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. WITHERS, U. S. Consul.

[Copy.]

U. S. CONSULATE,

HONG KONG, April 15, 1887.

The Virginia troops arrived on the grounds at Washington yesterday afternoon and at once went into camp. The State has contributed the largest number of troops to the drill, and they are an exceptionally fine body of men. They seem to realize the necessity of camp discipline and are behaving in a very soldierly manner.

The camp guard was mounted yesterday at 11 o'clock and will be continued until the breaking up of the camp. The guard consists of three reliefs, each man to remain on duty two hours and rest four. Every man in camp is liable to be called upon for guard duty.

At two o'clock yesterday evening the captains of the infantry companies that are entered for the competitive drill arrived at headquarters to draw for position. A basket was placed on the table in front of the assistant adjutant-general, and as fast as an officer registered his company, he put his hand in the basket and drew therefrom a sealed white envelope. These contained the number which represent the place to be assigned the company in the drill.

The Alexandria Light Infantry drew No. 15, and as eight companies are drilled each day, the Light Infantry are expected to compete on Friday.

The Richmond Greys was one of the companies drilled to-day.

When a company is called for drill a printed programme of the movements to be executed is handed to the captain, who is allowed to study it for a time and familiarize himself with its requirements. When his company has finished drilling the paper is handed back to the captain, who is bound by oath not to reveal its contents. Every company will execute the same evolutions, and will occupy thirty minutes in its exercises.

Only thirty-five companies will compete for the drill prizes. There are about seventy companies in camp, averaging forty members each, making a total of about 3,000 men in all.

The programme for to-morrow is as follows—Parade, forenoon; regimental review, afternoon; dress parade at 5 o'clock.

If bilious, or suffering from impurity of blood, or weak lungs, and fear of consumption (consumptive disease of the lungs), take Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," and it will cure you. By druggists.

DIED.

This morning, at his home, at the corner of Duke and Fyfe streets, near the Stone bridge, TOWNSEND BAGGETT, aged 75 years, 11 months and 21 days. The funeral will take place to-morrow (Wednesday) at 4 p. m., from his late residence. Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.



TODAY'S TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

More Trouble in Belgium.

BRUSSELS, May 24.—Many of the men on strike in the mining districts of Belgium possess arms and explosives. Many outrages have been committed by the use of the latter, including the destruction of machinery and the blowing up of abodes of managers of mines. Several arrests have been made in connection with the outrages. At Croufesta an attempt has been made to destroy a railway bridge with explosives. A riot has occurred at Vaux-Sous-Chèvremont, arising from the strikers compelling the German colliers to stop work in the mines. A number of arrests were also made there. In consequence of nightly socialist demonstrations in Brussels, processions and gatherings in the public streets have been prohibited.

Explosion and Loss of Life.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., May 24.—Pablo Crispive's saw mill in Canon Largo, thirty miles east of this city, was the scene of a terrible explosion Sunday morning, which entirely destroyed the property. The 17-year old son of Mr. Crispive and a Mexican employe named Benito were hurled into the air as if shot from a catapult, and dashed to the earth a hundred feet away. They were picked up lifeless. Their bodies were frightfully mangled, their limbs broken and heads crushed. Several other persons who were in the building at the time were more or less injured.

Marshal Shot.

GEORGETOWN, O., May 24.—Marshal E. J. Whelan was shot on the street, while walking with his wife near his house, by Henry B. Campbell and dangerously wounded in his right arm and side. Campbell used a Springfield rifle. He had been arrested several times by the marshal, and only the day before the marshal had intervened to stop Campbell's disorderly conduct at his own house. Campbell gave himself up.

Killed by Lightning.

DEXTER, Mo., May 24.—While returning from a prayer meeting near Leora Sunday night, James L. Butler was struck by lightning and instantly killed and Robert McCain was paralyzed and is in a critical condition.

The son of Michael Welsh was found dead beside a fence on Calvin Hicks's farm, near Whitehall, Ill. He was crossing a wheat field from a base ball game when he was struck by lightning.

Reported Attempt to Kill the Czar.

VIENNA, May 24.—The *Tagblatt* says: A telegram from Odessa stating that the Czar returned to St. Petersburg from the Don Cossacks country three days earlier than he intended to. This was due, the dispatch says, to an attempt made by a student to kill him on Wednesday night, during the festivities at Novo Tcherkassk, by firing at him as he rode by in a carriage.

Tragedy.

NEW ORLEANS, May 24.—A dispatch from Plaquemine to the *Pineyune* says: "A tragedy occurred near Bayou Gould yesterday morning. Ben Bates quarrelled with his nephew, Joe Bates, about family matters, and shot him dead. Peter Bates, father of Joe, then shot his brother Ben, wounding him mortally. Peter Bates was arrested. All have resided in this parish for some time."

Found Guilty.

WILMINGTON, N. C., May 24.—Grant Best, the negro who killed three of his companions and wounded two others at one shot a short time since, was found guilty of murder in the first degree in the Criminal court to-day. At the time of the shooting there was a general impression that it was the result of carelessness. Best is seventeen years old.

The French Crisis.

PARIS, May 24.—In view of the failure of all the combinations to effect a settlement of the ministerial question, President Grevy has recalled M. Floquet and appealed to his patriotism to form a Cabinet. M. Floquet asked for 24 hours to consider the matter.

Death of a Minister.

WINCHESTER, Va., May 24.—The Rev. John Pikey aged 70 years, for forty years minister of the Christian Church and pastor of a church in this city, died this morning at his residence. He was universally loved by his people throughout Virginia.

Police Court Blown Up.

LONDON, May 24.—A dynamite bomb was exploded under the police court at Hebburn, Durham county, last night partially destroying the building. The outrage is attributed to strikers.

Debt Legislation.

"The coupon-crusher" was the most important piece of coupon legislation adopted at this session of the General Assembly. It proceeds upon the theory that the United States Supreme Court has decided that the State may compel a man using coupons to prove their genuineness.

Another "coupon bill" which has become a law makes it a misdemeanor for any one to use the same coupons twice in paying taxes. The same act also provides for the keeping by collecting officers of "a record of coupons purporting to have been clipped from bonds of the State tendered for taxes. Another bill makes it punishable for collecting officers to receive coupons except for identification.

Another act makes it a felony for any one to induce any other person to use coupons twice, &c. There was also a bill passed providing that a coupon-broker, whether he does business by mail or not, shall get a separate license for each county in which he operates.

Another bill allows the Governor, in certain cases, to suspend treasurers from office. A joint resolution was adopted authorizing counsel to assist the Attorney-General in litigation growing out of the public debt, and appropriating \$3,000 as salary.

The Legislature endorsed the

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The English residents of Norfolk and the captains of the English ships in the harbor are making preparations to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

The several weeks' dry spell in Norfolk and vicinity was broken yesterday by heavy showers lasting all day, saving the truckers thousands of dollars.

The bill to remove the disabilities of Page McCarty and Wm. L. Royall, incurred under the anti-duelling act, was passed by the Legislature yesterday.

Mr. J. C. Moore, a well known citizen of Manchester, was stricken with paralysis Sunday night, and his condition since then has been such as to excite the alarm of his friends.

Among the things that ought not to have been done at the extra session of the Legislature is the enactment of a law giving the Governor power to remove treasurers for accepting coupons in payment of taxes.

A resolution expressive of appreciation of the efforts of Hon. William E. Gladstone, Hon. Charles Stuart Parnell and their followers to obtain home rule for Ireland and disapproval of coercion, was adopted yesterday by the Legislature.

It is said that the author of the resolution offered in the Legislature proposing to repudiate all the State debt not funded in a specified time will bring that subject up in the democratic State convention when it meets.